Henry C. Frick, Steel Magnate, Dies Suddenly

End Comes at Home Here After Financier Was Said to Have Recovered From Recent Indispositions

Had Noteworthy Career

Former Associate of Carnegie, He Later Fought Him for Steel Control

Henry Clay Frick, manufacturer, financier and art collector, died at his home, at Fifth Avenue and Seventieth Street, yesterday morning. He had been ill for nearly a month of ptomaine poisoning. A week or more ago he seemed to be recovering, but an organic affection of the heart developed. From this, also, he appeared to be rallying, and his condition was regarded as satisfactory, when suddenly the end came. His wife, son, daughter and daughter-in-law were with him at the time.

A short time before his death Mr. Frick, apparently quite comfortable, asked his butler, Oscar Rodgers, to get him a glass of water. He drank it, said, "Now I think I will go to sleep," and almost immediately fell into a state of apparent exhaustion. The butler vainly tried to rouse him, and then summoned the members of the family, and his physician, Dr. Lewis A. Connor. A few minutes later Mr. Frick died without regaining consciousness.

Many Offer Sympathy

Many messages of condolence were received at the house during the day, and there were also many callers. Among the latter was Mr. Frick's intimate friend and business associate, John P. Grier, of the firm of C. D. Barney & Co., who assumed direction of the arrangements for the funeral.

Mr. Grier said that the Rev. Dr. Leighton Parks, rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, Madison Avenue and Forty-fourth Street, will have charge of the funeral services, which will be held in the home of the dead financier at 5:30 this afternoon. Interment will be made in Pittsburgh Friday morning. The services here will be private, with only immediate members of the dead man's family and a few of his most intimate friends present. Mr. Grier denied an earlier report that Bishop Charles Sumner Burch would officiate.

"Mr. Frick had been ill about three weeks," said Mr. Grier in discussing his friend's death, "and up to yesterday his condition had shown steady improvement. He was sitting up Monday when I was talking to him.

"At the outset of his illness I think Mr. Frick and some others thought he had ptomaine poisoning. However, it was his heart that gave out finally."

It is a striking coincidence that the Russian anarchist Berkman, who more than twenty-seven years ago attempted to assassinate Mr. Frick, after various arrests and terms of imprisonment is now awaiting deportation from the country.

Mr. Frick's Career

Two generations ago Daniel Frick was a blacksmith in Westmoreland County, Pa. He had a son named John, who was a not particularly successful farmer and who married Elizabeth Overholt, daughter of Abraham Overholt. The latter was a German, originally named Oberholtzer, who had gone thither from Delaware, and who was prospering as the proprietor of one of the largest flour mills and whisky distilleries in that part of Pennsylvania. John Frick, failing at farming, entered his father-in-law's employ and thus spent the remainder of his life.

For a time he was a clerk in a store at Mount Pleasant, and then he became bookkeeper for his grandfather. From the latter place he went into the office of a firm of coke dealers and was sent to Pittsburg as their agent. That determined the whole bent of his life.

Entering the Coke Trade

At Pittsburgh he became associated with the builders of a short railroad tapping the coke region and made enough out of that venture to enable him to purchase some coke lands and build ovens. In 1871 he formed the firm of Frick & Co., with A. O. Tintsman and Joseph Rist as partners. They had 300 acres of coke land and 200 ovens. Then came the panic of 1873, which set his neighbors to selling and which scared his partners out of business. He bought out his partners and purchased other coke lands wherever he could, with the result that the end of the panic found him in control of more than 1,000 acres and nearly as many ovens.

With the reorganization of the concern into the H. C. Frick Coke Company, in 1882, with $2,000,000 capital, Mr. Frick entered upon a new era in his business career. He admitted the firm of Carnegie Brothers, of Pittsburgh, into the company, and was himself received into the Pittsburgh corporation, which was engaged in the manufacture of steel. This alliance of interests which were mutually dependent proved highly profitable and induced enormous growth, so that by 1887 the Frick company owned 35,000 acres of coal land, 10,000 ovens, 35 miles of railroad and 1,200 cars, and employed 11,000 men for the production of 1,100 carloads of coke a day. In 1889 the Carnegie corporation was reorganized and Mr. Frick was made chairman of its board of directors. Andrew Carnegie then tried to put into effect a new scale of wages in the vast works, in which he was defeated by the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers and was compelled to make a three years' agreement which was not to his liking.

The Great Homestead Strike

At the expiration of that agreement in 1892 Mr. Carnegie determined to fight the association. So he put Mr. Frick in charge of the campaign to enforce the new scale, and then he betook himself to Scotland. The sequel was the colossal Homestead strike. Many men were killed and wounded in conflicts between armed strikers and Pinkerton detectives and guards, before 8,000 state troops were called in to restore peace. Several times attempts were made to kill Mr. Frick, one of which nearly succeeded.

One day a young Russian anarchist from New York, named Alexander Berkman, a bookbinder by trade, entered his office, shot him twice with a pistol and stabbed him three times with a knife. Then Mr. Frick, badly wounded as he was, overpowered him and held him until the police came. Berkman was imprisoned for a time and then released to continue his anarchistic activities. Not until last week was a final order given for his deportation, and that order has not yet been executed. The Homestead strike continued until the end of 1892, and then ended in a victory for Mr. Frick.

In Conflict With Carnegie

In that strike, however, were planted seeds of strife between Mr. Frick and Mr. Carnegie. The latter had gone to Scotland to let the former bear the brunt—and incidentally the odium—of the strike. He came back to find that the odium, such as there was, rested upon himself, while Mr. Frick had loomed up into proportions which almost overshadowed him. For a time, however, peace was kept while the two worked together for the expansion of the Carnegie company. Railroad and steamship lines were procured and other mining and foundry companies were absorbed, until the Carnegie Steel Company seemed supreme. Then Mr. Carnegie intimated his desire to retire from active business, and Mr. Frick aspired to succeed him as the head of the corporation.

He planned to organize a company to buy out Mr. Carnegie. To this end he associated with himself Henry Phipps, W. H. Moore and others, and gave Mr. Carnegie $1,000,000 for a ninety days' option on his holdings, which Mr. Carnegie valued at $157,950,000. To carry out the scheme $250,000,000 was needed. Mr. Frick tried to interest J. P. Morgan in it, but failed. Then the death of Roswell P. Flower caused a depression in Wall Street which made it impossible to finance the enterprise. The ninety days expired, Mr. Carnegie refused to extend the option, and Mr. Frick lost his million dollars.

It was Mr. Frick's belief that Mr. Carnegie was animated by personal hostility, arising from jealousy. Mr. Carnegie doubtless did resent the prominence which Mr. Frick had attained, and also the personal humiliation which had come to himself from having his holdings placed upon the market without finding a purchaser. At any rate, he at once undertook to oust Mr. Frick from the business, and accordingly demanded the return of the latter's share of stock, much of which Mr. Frick was holding under a so-called "ironclad" agreement, to the effect that it was to be returned to Mr. Carnegie at its par value at any time when he might call for it. Mr. Frick resigned his chairmanship of the board of directors, but refused to surrender his stock, on the ground that he had paid for it with stock of the H. C. Frick Company and that it did not, therefore, come under the "ironclad" rule. Mr. Carnegie then ordered the board to declare Mr. Frick's stock forfeited at par; Mr. Frick applied for an injunction against such action; Mr. Carnegie replied with a bitter personal attack upon his late associate, and a battle royal was on.

The Great Steel Trust

Then the case was hushed up and settled out of court. A new corporation called the Carnegie Company was formed, with $160,000,000 in bonds and an equal sum in stock, distributed among the stockholders of the old company. This arrangement gave Mr. Frick a share worth approximately $31,000,000. On the other hand, he met with another disappointment, for the reorganization of the Carnegie industry was effected not by himself, but by another; for the gigantic United States Steel Corporation was formed in 1901 with Charles M. Schwab as president. Yet for this disappointment he had consolation in the practical doubling of his fortune; for he received, in return for his Carnegie Company $31,000,000 bonds and stock of the new concern worth about $61,300,000.

The organization of the Steel Corporation was not to his liking, for its head, Mr. Schwab, was regarded as "Carnegie's man." So when in 1903 Steel stock fell very low he secured enough of it to enable him to force Mr. Schwab out. But the new head, W. E. Corey, was also "Carnegie's man," and Mr. Frick waged war against him in turn until he deposed him also, and at last got his own friend, Mr. Farrell, at the head of the great trust.

Two other achievements of Mr. Frick's in "high finance" have become historic. One was his leadership in the house-cleaning investigation of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York. He was the chairman of the committee of directors which prepared the so-called "Frick report," a report which was suppressed by the other directors and was followed by the retirement of Mr. Frick and the rest of the committee from the board, but which led directly to the elimination of James W. Alexander and James Hazen Hyde from the management of the society and to the most sweeping reforms ever made in the whole system of life insurance in this state and nation.

The other achievement was both financial and political, and was nationwide and lasting in its effects. It was in 1907 that Mr. Frick, in company with Judge Gary, visited President Roosevelt at the White House and urged upon him what he himself described as an "attitude of tacit acquiescence" toward the acquisition of the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company by Judge Gary's Steel Trust, and thus, as has been confidently claimed, checked the serious panic of that year and prevented national disaster.

Though he did not scatter benefactions as freely as some of his contemporaries, Mr. Frick was generally ready to contribute of his wealth to the public welfare, though, as in the case of the Lenox Library, his intentions were not always realized. Thus he offered to the City of Pittsburgh land worth $300,000 for a park, but withdrew the offer because the city was unable to make the needed improvements upon it.

He gave $100,000 to the American Academy in Rome; was in 1915 the largest contributor to the fund for the widows of policemen killed in the performance of duty, which Commissioner Woods raised in this city, and was the largest contributor to Mme. Vandervelde's fund for Belgian relief in 1914. He gave in 1917 a fine marble and bronze memorial of Joseph H. Choate to the latter's native city, Salem, Mass.

The children of Pittsburgh have cause to remember the dead financier as their friend. He gave largely of his wealth for them, most of his gifts never receiving any public recognition whatever.

A few years ago when the Pittsburgh Bank for Savings failed the Christmas money deposited with it by 40,000 children under a plan carried out by the public schools was lost. Mr. Frick immediately offered to make good every loss and further the bank of which he was a director. His offer was accepted and the children's Christmas money was returned to them.

He also gave a fund of $250,000 for the self improvement of teachers of the Pittsburgh school system and later doubled the gift. Many of the hospitals of the city have been aided by him. He gave one of them probably the most complete X-ray equipment in the country.

Mr. Frick was married at Pittsburgh December 15, 1881, to Miss Adelaide Howard Childs, daughter of the late Asa P. Childs, who bore him two sons and two daughters, of whom one son and one daughter are now living. The former, Childs Frick, was married in October, 1913, to Miss Frances Shoemaker Dixon, daughter of Mrs. Isaac H. Dixon, of Philadelphia.

The daughter, Miss Helen Frick, has for some time been much interested in philanthropic work, and has been her father's agent in many gifts.

High Tributes to Frick By Associates and Others

Charles M. Schwab, Judge Gary, James A. Farrell and Thomas W. Lamont Express Grief

Associates of Henry Clay Frick, even those whom he fought bitterly during his life, and others, paid affectionate tributes to him when they learned of his death yesterday. Foremost among these was Charles M. Schwab, who was ousted from the presidency of the United States Steel Corporation some years ago through Mr. Frick's insistence.

"As a result of many years intimate business association with Mr. Frick," he said, "I desire to say that he had the soundest judgment and one of the keenest minds that I ever knew. Being eminently fair always and of the highest type of integrity and honesty, he won an enviable reputation in the business world, which he highly deserved."

James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel Corporation, said:

"I am unable adequately to express the depth of my feeling upon the death of our friend and associate in the United States Steel Corporation. Mr. Frick was an indefatigable worker, a man of wisdom and of the widest vision, and, moreover, possessed of those humane and kindly qualities which endeared him to his associates."

Elbert H. Gary, the directing head of the great corporation that Mr. Frick helped to mold, said:

"In the financial and industrial world Henry Clay Frick was a conspicuous figure. His natural ability, wide experience, unfailing courage and fixed determination were universally recognized, and placed him in a position of high standing and great influence among the business men of this country and elsewhere.

"While still a young man, without fortune and with little assistance from others, he entered the domain of business, and as a result of energy, perseverance and integrity of purpose he succeeded, prospered and became wealthy.

"Mr. Frick had taken a leading part in the affairs of the United States Steel Corporation during the last seventeen years. Keen of perception, sound of judgment, expert in management, his voice was potential. He talked little, but he said much. All his associates on the finance committee, for whom I am making this statement, entertained toward Mr. Frick sentiments of respect, admiration and affectionate regard."

Thomas W. Lamont, of J. P. Morgan & Co., said:

"Mr. Frick's death comes as a shock to all his associates. He was a farseeing and courageous citizen. Almost every enterprise that he touched showed the result of his acumen and thoroughgoing, painstaking efforts.

"Mr. Frick had a mind that was brilliant and at the same time sound. As his success and prosperity increased he came more and more to realize the value of trained minds in industry, and his contributions to the cause of education and of technical research were notable."

Field Marshal Wood, Veteran of Crimean War, Is Dead at 81

Sir Evelyn Created the Egyptian Army at Alexandria Which Lord Kitchener Powerfully Employed

LONDON, Dec. 2.—Field Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood died here to-day.

Evelyn Wood, the most eminent survivor—until yesterday—of the Crimean War and the older school of British military men, was born at Cressing, Braintree, Essex, England, on February 9, 1838, the son of the Rev. Sir John Page Wood, and was educated at Marlborough College. He entered the navy in 1852, and served with the naval brigade in the Crimea. He was wounded there while carrying a scaling ladder against the Redan, for which feat he was mentioned in Lord Raglan's dispatches and received a medal.

He served with distinction in the Sepoy Mutiny and there won the Victoria Cross. He also was conspicuous in the Ashantee, Kaffir and Zulu wars and in the Transvaal war of 1880-'81. In the disastrous Zulu war he won the honors of the campaign by first saving the British from utter ruin after Isandula and then crushing Cetewayo's best impis at Kambula.

When Arabi's rebellion broke out in Egypt, in 1882, Sir Evelyn was in command at Alexandria, and thereafter virtually created that Egyptian army which Kitchener so powerfully employed, and he commanded the lines of communication in the Nile expedition of 1894-'95. Thereafter he served at Aldershot, and, according to the late Lord Wolseley, did more for the British army than any other man of his time. He was not permitted to engage in the Boer war because of his deafness, but he continued his invaluable work in England, and he was second only to Lord Roberts in urging British preparedness for the war with Germany, which he as well as Lord Roberts, had expected for many years. He was, of course, too old to enter active service in the late war, but he was a wise and efficient counsellor at home. He regarded the Germans as utterly savage and pagan and held that the safety of the world required them to be completely beaten.

MRS. MARY H. WINCHELL

CALDWELL, N. J., Dec. 2.—Mrs. Mary Harris Winchell, fifty-one, organizer of the Salvation Army in Worcester, Mass., died at her home yesterday from tuberculosis. She was born in Danbury, Conn., and was the wife of Colonel Wallace Winchell, of the Salvation Army. Mrs. Winchell was herself a captain for many years. Her husband, who for fifteen years was in charge of the Salvation Army headquarters in Jersey City, was sent to Belgium by President Wilson in 1916, and his work here devolved upon his wife, who suffered a break-down which developed into tuberculosis.

A deathbed message from Mrs. Winchell to the convention of the Salvation Amry meeting at Worcester, Mass., will be read Thursday. It says: "Unable to speak, only in a whisper. I am thinking of you and our early work in Worcester. Wish you every prosperity as earth fades. God is my refuge."

The body will lie in state at Salvation Army headquarters in New York City Wednesday, and funeral services will be held there Thursday morning. Burial will be made in the Salvation Army Cemetery at Kensico, N. Y. Mrs. Winchell is survived by her husband and five children.

"Was Exploiter of Labor." Berkman's Only Comment

CHICAGO, Dec. 2.—Alexander Berkman, the anarchist who attempted to assassinate Henry C. Frick at his office in Pittsburgh, July 23, 1892, and was sentenced to a term of twenty-one years in the penitentiary for the crime, when informed of Frick's death to-day said:

"It is too bad he cannot take the millions he amassed by exploiting labor with him."

This was his only comment.